# A SOLEMN ACT OF CONFESSION AND INTERCESSION,

SUITED

To the Plan of those LONDON Divines, who requested all the well-disposed Christians (Laity as well as Clergy) throughout the Nation, to join with them in a solemn Act of Humiliation, for One Hour every Lord's-day Evening: on Account of their own Sins, and the Sins of this Nation, during those calamitous Times, *viz.* in the Year 1757, and now re-printed as equally suitable to the Present.

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By the late Rev. Mr. *BASSET*,
Archdeacon of *Stow*.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

Reader, if thou haſt not learnt to pray without a book, make uſe of this. But if thou haſt the Spirit of Prayer, thou wilt not deſpiſe the day of ſmall things. Read it, and beg it may be made a public bleſſing. May God lay upon thine heart the concerns of this church and kingdom, and help thee to plead for them with that effectual fervent prayer, which availeth much. Let me recommend to thee thy ſervant in our common Lord,

Aug. 23, 1779. W. ROMAINE.

# A SOLEMN ACT OF

# CONFESSION, &c.

O Blessed Lord, let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, be at *this* time acceptable in thy sight. Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let this, now, lifting up of my hands be a sweet-smelling sacrifice.

Lord, hear my prayer, and let my crying come unto thee.

O most great and glorious God, just and terrible in thy judgments to all obstinate and rebellious sinners, but of infinite mercy to *such* as with *true* sorrow and hearty repentance turn unto thee; look down, I beseech thee, with mercy and compassion upon *me*, now presenting myself before thee, owning that I am not worthy so much as to lift up my *eyes* to the throne of thy glorious majesty.

O Lord, my sins are so many and so great, that it is owing to thy *mercy alone* that I am not *long since* consumed; but have yet *another* opportunity of humbling myself before thee,

and begging mercy for my poor ſoul, which has ſo *grievouſly* ſinned againſt thee.

I confeſs, O Lord, what thou knoweſt *already*; but I confeſs it, to manifeſt thy *juſtice*, and to glorify thy *mercy*, who has ſpared me ſo long. I confeſs and acknowledge, O Lord, that I brought a *depraved* and *ſinful* nature into the world with me, from whence all my *actual* tranſgreſſions have flowed and proceeded, as impure ſtreams from a *polluted* fountain. O bleſſed God, I beſeech thee, for thy dear Son *Jeſus Chriſt*'s ſake, to humble me, and that greatly, for this my *original* corruption. Lord, let me ſee it in *the ſtrongeſt light*; and never give me reſt and peace, till *I from my ſoul* cry out for and rely upon the *unſinning obedience* of my dear Redeemer *Jeſus*, and the aſſiſtance of *his Spirit* for deliverance from it. And grant that this precious balm may be my *cure*, and reſtore me *again to the image of God*.

O Lord, I have ſinned againſt thee by actual and wilful ſins. I have left *undone* thoſe things which I *ought* to have done, and I have done thoſe things which I ought not to have done. Particularly, [here mention all the ſins, which after a *ſtrict* examination, you can recollect yourſelf to have been guilty of thro' your whole life.]

O bleſſed Lord, I can give but a wretched account of myſelf; I cannot reckon, I fear, a ten thouſandth part of my offences. Lord ſave, or elſe I periſh. My crimes are *intoler-*

*able*,

*able*, and my imperfections *ſhameful*, and my omiſſions *innumerable*. O, what ſhall I ſay unto thee, or what ſhall I do, O thou preſerver of men? I am ſo *vile*, that I cannot expreſs it, and much more abominable muſt *I needs* be in thy ſight. O I have ſinned, I have ſinned! my ſins are grown *ſhameful*, and aggravated to amazement. Lord, I can ſay *no more*; I am aſhamed, I am confounded, in thy preſence!

But *yet*, O God, thou art *the healer* of our breaches, and the lifter up of our heads; and I muſt not, I dare not, deſpair. Thou haſt *opened a fountain* for ſin and uncleanneſs; and therefore, I am *ſure* thou *delighteſt* not in the death of a ſinner. And though my ſins are great and numberleſs, even as numberleſs as the ſand which is upon the ſea ſhore, yet they are infinitely leſs than thy *mercies*, which thou haſt revealed to all *penitent* and *returning* ſinners, in *Jeſus Chriſt*.

For *his* ſake, therefore, be pleaſed to look down into the duſt, and lift up a ſinner, a poor, helpleſs ſinner, from the dunghill; for Chriſt's ſake let me not periſh in my *folly*, nor be *conſumed* in thy heavy *diſpleaſure*; for *Chriſt*'s ſake give me time and ſpace to repent, and give me alſo *power*, by the aſſiſtance of thy bleſſed *Spirit*; ſupport me with an holy hope, confirm me with an operative and lively faith, and kindle a bright and burning *charity* in my ſoul. Give me patience in ſuffering, ſeverity in judging and

condemning my *ſins*; that judging *myſelf*, I may not be condemned by *thee*; that mourning for my ſins, I may rejoice in thy pardon; that mortifying my ſin, I may live in *righteouſneſs*; that denying *my own* will, I may always endeavour to perform *thine*; and by the aſſiſtance of thy *bleſſed Spirit*, I may overcome all *carnal* and *ſpiritual* wickedneſs; and may walk in thy *light*, and delight in thy *ſervice*; may go on in my obedience, be totally delivered as well from the *power* as from the *puniſhment* of ſin, and ſo be *for ever* preſerved from thy *wrath*; and at laſt, paſs on from a certain *expectation* to an actual *enjoyment* of the glories of thy kingdom, through Jeſus Chriſt, my bleſſed Lord and Saviour, Amen.

2. And now, O Lord, that I have been humbling myſelf before thee, and confeſſing my *own* ſins, as a *private* and *particular* perſon, I think myſelf, in humility and duty bound, after the example of thy ſervant *Daniel*, to look upon myſelf in a ſtill *further* ſinful light, *viz.* as an inhabitant of a wicked, and rebellious *nation*; and ſo like *Daniel*, to confeſs likewiſe the ſins of my people. And oh that my ſupplications, and the ſupplication of all thoſe who at this appointed hour, have agreed ſolemnly to ſet themſelves to ſeek thy face, and to confeſs their *own* ſins, and the ſins of the people of this land; oh that they may meet with *the ſame gracious* acceptance with thee that *Daniel* did! O, that "the "commandment may come forth at the be-

"ginning

" ginning of our ſupplications, to finiſh our " tranſgreſſions, and to make an end of our " ſins, and to make reconciliation for our " iniquities," that thou mayeſt once more be our *God*, and *we* thy people.

Let thy merciful ears, O God, be therefore open unto our *prayers*, and *ſpare* all thoſe who *confeſs* their ſins unto thee; that they whoſe conſciences by ſin are accuſed, by thy merciful pardon may be abſolved, through *Jeſus Chriſt* our *Lord*.

" O Lord, the great and dreadful God, " keeping the *covenant* and *mercy* to them that " love him, and to them that keep his com- " mandments. We have ſinned, we have ſin- " ned, O Lord, and have committed *iniquity*, " and have done *wickedly*, and have rebelled, " even by departing from thy precepts, and " from thy judgments; neither have we " hearkened to thy ſervants the prophets," nor to thy Son *Jeſus Chriſt*, nor to his *apoſtles*, who in thy holy word, " have ſpoken to our " *fathers*, and to the people of this land. O " Lord, righteouſneſs belongeth unto *thee*, " but unto *us confuſion of face*, as at *this* day; " to our kings, to our *princes*, to our *fathers*, " and to *us ourſelves*, becauſe of the *treſpaſſes* " which we have treſpaſſed againſt thee. Yea, " we have all, as *one man*, tranſgreſſed againſt " thee, by departing from thee, and not " obeying thy voice, [therefore, the curſe is " poured upon us, and thou haſt confirmed " the words which thou ſpake againſt us.

" Thou

" Thou haſt brought upon us many and ſore
" evils, yet made we not our *prayer* before
" thee, that we may turn from our *iniquity*,
" and underſtand thy truth."]

But, O bleſſed Lord, to *thee* " belong mer-
" cies and forgiveneſſes, though we have rebel-
" againſt thee. And, Lord, we confeſs our
" wickedneſs, and are *ſorry* for our ſins.
" We beſeech thee, therefore, according to all
" thy righteouſneſs, and thy gracious *pro-*
" *miſes*, and for the ſake of thy dear Son *Jeſus*
" *Chriſt*, to let thine anger and thy fury *be*
" *turned away* from us. Incline thine ear, O
" Lord, and *hear*; open thine eyes, O Lord,
" and ſee and behold our miſeries and our
" deſolation; for we do not preſent our ſup-
" plications before thee, truſting in our *own*
" *righteouſneſs*, but in thy manifold and great
" *mercies*. We are not worthy, O Lord, of
" *the leaſt* of all thy mercies, and of *the truth*
" which thou haſt ſhewed, of old time, to us
" thy ſervants; but thou art *the ſame* Lord,
" whoſe property is always to have mercy.
" Have *mercy* upon us, therefore, have *mercy*
" upon us, moſt merciful Father, for thy
" dear Son our Lord *Jeſus Chriſt's ſake*, forgive
" us all that is paſt, and grant that we may
" ever hereafter ſerve thee *in newneſs of life*,
" to the honour and glory of thy name."
And, " let a conſideration of our own ſin-
" fulneſs and unworthineſs, and of thy ma-
" nifold warnings to us, and long ſufferings
" towards us, *increaſe* in us *true repentance*,

" that

" that iniquity may not be our ruin; and in-
" creaſe in us alſo, more and more, a lively
" *faith and love*; make us fruitful in all holy
" *obedience*, that thou mayeſt *ſtill* continue
" thy *favour*, together with the *light* of thy
" *goſpel, to us and our poſterity*; and this we
" beg for thy dear Son *Jeſus Chriſt*'s ſake,
" our only Mediator and Advocate."

3. And now, that I have confeſſed to thee my *own* ſins, and the ſins of the nation, I deſire further to offer up my prayers in behalf of *all mankind!* that both *Jew and Gentile*, may believe in and glorify thee, the only *true* God, and *Jeſus Chriſt* whom thou haſt ſent.

Protect and proſper thy holy catholic church, preſerve it pure in doctrine and worſhip, root out of it whatſoever is a *ſcandal* to thy moſt holy religion, unite its profeſſors, and enlarge its borders; eſpecially, bleſs *that* part of it in *theſe* nations to which I belong; and, as in thy infinite mercy thou haſt been pleaſed to vouchſafe us abundant illuminations of thy goſpel, ſo grant that by our ſins we may not extinguiſh the light of it, nor cauſe our " candleſtick to be removed."

Inflame the miniſters and ſtewards of thy myſteries, with a lively and burning zeal, for the converſion of ſouls; impreſs it *deeply upon* them, that " *Curſed* is *he* that doeth the work " of the Lord deceitfully:" and be pleaſed, O Lord to aſſiſt *them* with thy *bleſſed Spirit*; and to direct *them* to the uſe of *ſuch* means,

as

as may be effectual to bring about and accompliſh that deſireable and happy end.

Be pleaſed likewiſe, O Lord, to bleſs all thoſe our diſſenting brethren, of what denomination ſoever they be, "who love the "Lord Jeſus Chriſt in ſincerity;" reconcile our hearts to *them*, and theirs to *us*; grant that there may be an end of thoſe animoſities and bitter diſputes, which have *ſo long* and ſo ſadly diſturbed the *peace*, and hindered the *union of proteſtants*: and grant alſo, that there may be only this *one holy* contention between us, *viz.* whether the miniſters *out* of the eſtabliſhed church, or thoſe that are *in it*, ſhall labour *moſt* for the glory of our common maſter, and for the ſalvation of *thoſe* ſouls committed to *their* care, and for whom he ſhed his *blood*.

Bleſs likewiſe our ſovereign Lord *king George*, and all his royal family; make them pure and holy in their own lives, raiſe up an active and vigorous ſpirit in their hearts, for the puniſhing and rooting out of wickedneſs and vice, and for the encouragement and maintenance of *true* religion amongſt us.

And be pleaſed, O Lord, to give the *ſpirit* of wiſdom to all his counſellors, and to all the *magiſtrates* of all ranks throughout the nation, that they may be enabled *faithfully* to diſcharge that *great* truſt which is repoſed in them, to thy honour, and the benefit and advantage of his majeſty and the nation.

Be

Be pleaſed likewiſe to go forth with our *fleets* and *armies*, bleſs all their endeavours againſt our enemies, and give them *ſucceſs* in the day of battle.

Have mercy upon all the afflicted members of thy church, whether in *mind*, *body*, or *eſtate*; pity their condition, good Lord pity it, and lay no *more* upon them than they are *able* to bear, but give them *deliverance* in thy good *appointed* time; if it be thy bleſſed will, have compaſſion on all *that* are in *error*, but ſincerely *ſeek the truth*; on *all* that are engaged in *ſinful* courſes, and led captive by their luſts, that they may have grace and ſtrength to break their bonds; and *all* thoſe who never pray for themſelves, open their eyes, O Lord, and break their ſtony hearts, awaken *them*, though it be even with *thunder*, to a *ſenſible feeling* of their ſad condition, and for thy mercy's ſake ſuffer them *no longer* to "ſit "in darkneſs, and in the ſhadow of death, "but may they ſee, *before it be too late*, the "danger and madneſs of thus living without "*God* in the world."

4. Finally, O Lord, I deſire to return unto thee my *unfeigned praiſes* and *thankſgiving* for the manifold expreſſions of thy goodneſs and loving kindneſs to *me* and to *all mankind:* I bleſs thee for my *creation*, *preſervation*, and *all* the bleſſings of *this* life, and for all the helps and advantages which thou haſt vouchſafed me for the obtaining of a better, but above all, for thy aſtoniſhing love to mankind

in

in *Jeſus Chriſt*; for all that he hath done and *ſuffered* for us, and continues *ſtill* to do for us by his powerful *interceſſion* at thy right hand; humbly beſeeching thee, that I, thy ſervant, together with all thoſe who have lived and died in the faith of his holy *name*, may follow the example of his *heavenly life*; that, finally, with *them*, I may be made partaker of the merits of his obedience and death, in a joyful *reſurrection* to life everlaſting.

All theſe confeſſions, prayers, ſupplications, interceſſions and thankſgivings, I humbly put up to the throne of *grace*, in the name and words of our Lord and Saviour *Jeſus Chriſt*, who in compaſſion to our *infirmities* has taught us to pray, ſaying,

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Our Father, &c. Amen.

N. B. It may not be improper to remind every Chriſtian, that, before he makes uſe of this prayer, he ought to ſet apart *half an hour* for *ſelf-examination*.

FINIS.